

FROM THE GROUND UP

Fall 2013 Pipeline Info

Did you know that we have several underground transmission pipelines that run in or near Highland? The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Government and industry statistics show that improper or unauthorized digging near a pipeline is the most common cause of pipeline damage.

Every digging project no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811, it's the law.

When calling 811, homeowners and professional contractors are connected with our area one-call center, which will then notify the appropriate underground utility companies of the intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested dig site to mark the location of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both. Learn more about the 811 process, and what the flags and paint mean, by visiting www.call811.com.

The boom in U.S. oil production is straining America's network of more than 184,000 miles of pipelines carrying hazardous liquids. Traffic in liquid-fuel pipes increased more than 19% between 2011 and 2012, according to federal data. Go to www.api.org for a general map of pipelines in the United States.



Do not depend upon odor alone to determine if a leak exists. Most large diameter pipelines are not odorized and the intensity of the odor is no indication of the severity of the leak. Be observant of all visual clues and unusual sounds in the area of a pipeline.

Signs of a Potential Pipeline Leak:

- An area of dead grass or vegetation
- Liquid or fire on the ground near a pipeline
- Dirt blowing into the air
- Hissing, gurgling or roaring sounds
- Dense white cloud or fog
- Fire
- A strong petroleum – like or a sulfur – like (rotten egg) odor

If you suspect a leak, it is a true emergency.

Steps to take in a Pipeline Emergency:

- Leave the area, **walking, going into** the wind and away from the site
- Warn others to stay away
- Avoid contact with fluids or vapors escaping from the pipeline
- From a safe area call 911 to report the suspected leak
- If you can do so safely, contact the pipeline operator using the number from a nearby pipeline marker
- Never attempt to operate any pipeline valves or other equipment
- Do not create a spark

Alert local law enforcement and the pipeline company if you have questions or see unauthorized or dangerous activity occurring near a pipeline.

Educate your family about underground pipelines. For pipeline safety games and other materials for children, visit <http://www.safeathomewithleo.com>.